1618

STC 8472

I R

JAMES, By the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singuler Archbishops, Bishops Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all spirituall persons: And also to all Justices of the Peace, Maiors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, Churchwardens, and Headboroughs: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subiects whatsoeuer they be, as well within Liberties, as without, to whome these presents shall come, greeting.

WHEREAS wee are very credibly giuen to vnderstand by the humble supplication and petition of our faithful and louing Subiects the Maior, Burgesses of the Burrough or Towne of *Yarmouth* in the Ile of Wight in our Countie of *Southampton*, That our said Towne is an ancient Burrough, and was sometimes so peopled and inhabited, as that it had in it three Churches, which Towne in the beginning of the Raigne of our noble Progenitor King Richard the second, was wholly burnt and made desolate by the French, and two of the sayd Churches and the body of the 3. Church vtterly burnt, raised, defaced, so as there remained onlie the ruinated Chancell of one of the said Churches, which the late Inhabitants of the said Towne haue repaired and maintained for the exercise of diuine seruice, and administration of the Sacraments. Now forasmuch as the opportunitie of the place (by reason of the conuenience of harbour and our Castle there, togeather with our incorporating the same, and graunting liberties thereunto) hath induced many to resort vnto, build, and dwell in the said Towne, wherby the said Chauncell is not of sufficient greatnes and capacity to containe the present Inhabitants who resort thither to diuine seruice, and the estate of the said Towne and the Inhabitants thereof is not such, as that they are able to build a Church fit and decent for those who do already reside there, much lesse for those who in future times are hoped to resort thither.

KNOWE yee therfore, that we tendering the good of the said Towne and Inhabitants thereof, and fauouring their honest and religious zeale concerning the enlarging and reedifying of their Church (holding it one of our chiefest cares, and a speciall part of our dutie to giue way and furtherance to so good and charitable a worke, whereby not only a competent and conuenient place for preaching the word, and other diuine exercises may be prepared, but also that Trade and Traffique for the benefite of the said Inhabitants and other our louing Subiects, may hereafter bee there increased.) Of our especiall Grace and Princely compassion haue giuen and graunted, and by these our letters Patents doe giue and grant vnto our said louing Subiects the Maior and Burgesses of our said Towne of *Yarmouth* and their Successors, and to their Deputie the bearer hereof, full power, licence, and authoritie to aske, gather, receaue, and take the charitable deuotion and liberall contribution whatsoeuer of all our louing Subiects aswell spirituall as temporall within our Cities of London, and Westminster, & Suburbes thereof, and in our Counties of Southampton, Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, & Deuon, with our Cities of Winchester, Salisburie, Bristoll, Bathe, and Exeter, together also with the Towne of Poole, the Ile of Wight, and Towne of Southampton: And in all other Cities, Townes corporate, priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places & liberties whatsoeuer within our sayd Cities and Counties, and euery of them, and not elsewhere, for and towards the new building and reedifying of the said Church of Yarmouth.

WHEREFORE wee will and commaund you and euery of you, that at such time and times as the said Maior and Burgesses or their Deputie the bearer hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches or other places, to aske, and receaue the gratuities and charitable benevolence of well disposed persons, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any maner your lets & contradictions. And you the sayd Parsons, Vicars, and Curats, for the better stirring vp of a charitable benevolence, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenour of these our letters Patents vnto our sayd Subiects, Exhorting and charitably moouing and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a deede. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Prouision heretofore made, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN witnesse whereof we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witnesse our selfe at Westminster the Fourth day of September in the Ninth yeare of our Raigne of England, Fraunce and Ireland; and of Scotland the Fiue and Fortieth.

Steward.

God saue the King. Printed by Thomas Purfoot.